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Continuation of Trade in Animal By-Products

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments - Other

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Report Highlights:

The sea and airports in the Benelux countries are important entry points into Europe for U.S. agricultural and food products. This report describes two instances in where shipments with animal by-products were released, or prevented to be detained as the result of intervention by USDA/FAS staff. The detainments were a result of enforcement of new legislation, EC Regulation 142/2011. The total value of the shipments was \$310,000. USDA/FAS advocacy prevented an annual market loss of about \$8.8 million.

The seaports of Rotterdam and Antwerp, and the airport Schiphol Amsterdam are important entry points for U.S. agricultural products shipped to the EU. Due to the volume of trade, and often complex import requirements, USDA/FAS staff in the Netherlands is frequently called upon to assist in importing shipments from the United States. This report describes two recent instances in where shipments with animal by-products were released, or prevented to be detained as the result of intervention by USDA/FAS staff. The detainments were a result of enforcement of new legislation for animal by products, EC Regulation 142/2011. The total value of the shipments was \$310,000. USDA/FAS advocacy prevented an annual market loss of about \$8.8 million. If this blockade of trade would have lasted longer than a month, the end users would have to switch to other ingredients or stop their production of pet food.

Release of three containers with egg products

On November 30, 2011, FAS The Hague was informed by APHIS Brussels that the Belgian Food Agency (FAVV) was possibly going to detain shipments with a sprayed dried egg product from Montana. On December 5, the Belgian importer informed FAS The Hague that the FAVV held three of their containers with the product. The reason for detainment was that the Health Certificate was issued for flavoring innards instead of egg products (EC Regulation 142/2011). The importer informed FAS The Hague that if this blockade of trade would have lasted longer than a month, his client would be forced to stop producing pet food.

APHIS Brussels informed FAS The Hague that EC SANCO had communicated that if the product will be used for pet food, a Health Certificate for flavoring innards would be correct. Both APHIS and FAS The Hague informed the FAVV of SANCO's interpretation.

On January 5, 2012 the importer informed FAS The Hague that the FAVV released the three detained containers, and new purchases were already made. Mid 2012, the EC will make a final decision on which certificate must be issued for this and similar products. Until the final decision is made, the FAVV will impose a transposition period during which the products can be imported with the health certificate for flavoring innards, under the condition the product is solely used for pet food. The shipments of the U.S. product represent an estimated value of \$85,000. The importer's annual trade value of this product is estimated at \$4.3 million.

Prevention of detainment of three containers with a flavoring product

On December 9, 2011, FAS The Hague was informed by APHIS Riverdale that the Netherlands Food and Consumer Products Safety Authority (nVWA) were possibly going to detain three shipments from Montana with a flavoring product destined as ingredient for pet food. The reason for this potential detainment was that the Health Certificates listed materials which were not used to prepare the product. The nVWA requested APHIS to cross out these materials on the certificate. The importer informed FAS The Hague that if a blockade of trade would last longer than a month his buyer would switch to another ingredient.

APHIS Riverdale and APHIS Brussels informed FAS The Hague that it would not be possible to cross out individual lines in a section of a certificate. The EC was not able to give instructions on the short term. FAS The Hague asked the nVWA for a transposition period until clear instructions from the EC were provided or a new model health certificate was made available.

On December 22, the nVWA informed FAS The Hague that they would accept the Health Certificates as they were issued until a new model certificate will be made available. The three shipments of the U.S. product represent an estimated value of \$225,000. The importer's annual trade value of this product is estimated at \$4.5 million.